

**ADDITIONAL ADVICE ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE
FOR PEOPLE WITH COMMON HOUSEHOLD PETS
(small animals such as dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, or rodents)**



From the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

1. Stay informed and prepare for conditions to change. If you decide to stay at home, bring all pets inside. Indoors they will both gain shelter from hazards such as flying debris and be ready to go with you on short notice, if conditions worsen but travel remains safe.
2. Even if you think it will be unnecessary, identify a specific, safe place for you and your pets to go. Options include a pet-friendly motel or the home of a relative or friend who lives a safe distance away, maybe with the help of a kennel. See [Where Can We Go?](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a9.pdf) on-line at < http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a9.pdf>.
3. Check to be sure that at least one or some combination of these options will work as an alternate place to wait out the emergency.
4. If you evacuate, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS HOME ALONE!!**
5. If you must evacuate to a public shelter, prepare your pets for a separate facility. (Red Cross shelters cannot accommodate pets, except for service animals, such as guide dogs). You are responsible for moving your own pets or arranging their transfer to a local or state emergency animal care center.
 - Check press releases, your local emergency manager or public safety office to see if a local animal shelters can accept your pets.
 - For disasters that entail large evacuations, such as hurricanes, the state may open one or two large emergency animal care centers:
 - THAYER ICE ARENA at The Mickey Stevens Complex on Sandy Lane, Warwick;
 - BRADFORD R. BOSS ICE ARENA by the Ryan Center of URI on RI-138/Kingstown Road, Kingston.
6. Your pet will be accepted for emergency sheltering only if it is properly identified, healthy, and restrained. Place identification tags on your pet and identification tape on all other items.
7. Assemble and bring the following **Pet ID Pack** (one for each pet) in a waterproof package. It should contain:
 - ☐ Proof of pet ownership, such as copies of adoption papers, registration papers, proof of purchase, microchip/tattoo numbers or registry phone numbers. List each animal indicating its species/breed, age, sex, whether neutered/spayed, color, and any distinguishing characteristics.
 - ☐ A copy of the pet's current medical records, including its vaccination history (types of vaccines and dates given), current rabies certificate, important test results (e.g., FeLV, FIV, Heartworm), and existing medical problems.
 - ☐ A recent photo of each pet and its owner.

- ☐ Current prescriptions. List each animal separately along with the name of that pet's medication, the dose and frequency given. Provide veterinary hospital and pharmacy telephone numbers for refills.
 - ☐ Microchip information.
 - ☐ Contact information for a "buddy", a reliable friend or relative who lives reasonably far away (for example, who lives in a place unlikely to be flooded under the same conditions as yours.)
 - ☐ Any special care instructions, detailed enough for animal care or rescue workers. Record the diet for each animal, including what NOT TO FEED, in case of allergies.
6. Assemble and bring the following items in a **Go Kit**, supplies to grab and go with you in an evacuation. Label each item with indelible ink:
- ☐ The **Pet ID Pack**, described above, including identification and health records.
 - ☐ A cage, carrier or crate – one for each household pet – large enough for the pet to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Allow room for a food and water dish (and litter pan if appropriate).
 - ☐ A proper-fitting collar or harness, to be worn AT ALL TIMES.
 - ☐ A sturdy six-foot leash, to be readily available AT ALL TIMES.
 - ☐ Identification and current rabies tags affixed to the collar.
 - ☐ First aid kit.
 - ☐ Make sure identification tags or tape are as weather-proof and as securely fastened as possible to your pet's collar and to its carrier, cage, or crate. Include your name, address, and contact information as well as contact information for a "buddy," a reliable friend or relative far from the disaster site.
 - ☐ At least a three-day supply of food, the kind your pet is used to eating, in an airtight, waterproof container. If your pet eats canned food, bring cans that are small enough for one feeding per can. During an emergency, there may be no way to refrigerate leftovers.
 - ☐ At least a three-day supply of water. Water is even more important than food!
 - A 10-pound animal drinks about one pint (16 fluid ounces) of water per day
 - A 20-pound animal drinks about one quart of water per day
 - A 50-pound animal drinks about a half-gallon of water per day
 - ☐ At least a three-day supply of any regular medications.
 - ☐ Three bowls (one for food, one for water, and one spare) for each pet, plus a measuring spoon or scoop to measure or mix food. For cans, bring a manual can opener.
 - ☐ Bedding and litter material (such as a litter box, bagged kitty litter or clean newspaper) sufficient for at least three days.
 - ☐ Pet comfort items such as towels, blankets, or toys.
 - ☐ Plastic bags, paper towels, disinfectant for clean-up.
 - ☐ Flashlights, batteries.

See also:

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), [Preparing Your Pet for Emergencies](#).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), [Caring for Animals](#).

American Red Cross (ARC), [Animal Safety](#).

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), [Disaster Preparedness Resources](#), especially [Disaster Preparedness for Pets](#).

American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), [Emergency Pet Preparedness](#).

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), [Saving the Whole Family](#) and [Disaster Preparedness and Response Guide](#).